

RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE
STRATEGY:
GEDLING BOROUGH

(February 2004)

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY REPORT: GEDLING

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Gedling Borough Council (GBC) commissioned a study to assess the supply and demand of open space within the Borough in March 2002. Open space in the context of the brief includes:

- Playing pitches.
- Non-pitch facilities.
- Children's play areas.
- Recreation grounds.
- Public open spaces and common land.
- Other urban green spaces.

The scope of this work is to determine the role that particular items of open space play in a hierarchy of provision. The aim is to produce an assessment of the extent of provision and to distinguish the principal functions (typology) of the space, for example, differentiating between formal public open spaces (parks and gardens or village greens) and informal open spaces.

The study was undertaken using information from the Borough's records, local consultation and site visits.

This report is the strategy for informal recreational open space in the Borough of Gedling. It is part of a wider recreational open space study.

This contrasts with methodology for the playing pitch and children's play area study where every site in the District was visited, its usage determined, its quality assessed and a surplus or deficiency of provision identified. The recreational open space study therefore solely identifies existing open spaces and is not concerned with the linked and more important issues of usage, demand and quality.

The Open Spaces study, whilst solely looking at identifying existing sites has been carried out in accordance with PPG17 and, particularly, Chapter 10 of the Companion Guide in that a hierarchy of provision has been used. This is essentially based on the premise that 'large or high quality spaces or facilities' tend to attract users from a wider area than small or poor quality ones and tend to have a higher local profile.

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The Guide makes reference to a three-level hierarchy relating to open spaces. Using a simple mapping technique, each significant piece of open space has then been illustrated on a map with its potential user catchment and accessibility threshold identified. The distance thresholds are based upon other work acknowledged in the field, particularly work by London Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC).

Using a recreational open space hierarchy as advocated by PPG17, this study attributes the importance of different types of parks & gardens and amenity open space at four levels of significance. Each type of recreational open space within the Borough is classified under a typology such as 'country park' or 'large public open space'. Each typology is considered to have a relative significance in the context of the Borough, its residents and visitors and has a catchment zone attributed to it.

Amenity green spaces (highway buffers) have been discounted from the mapping as they are considered not to have a safe recreational value. Playing pitch and play area typologies are also excluded from mapping as these are covered within other studies.

The study is intended to support other work to consider the extent to which noted sites can help meet any identified shortfall. Such work will need to assess other factors such as topography, accessibility, and funding.

The accompanying maps of principal settlement areas use a hierarchy of provision which assesses the catchment of an item of open space and whether it is, on this basis, of local, neighbourhood significance, settlement significance or borough significance depending on the size and function of the open space. In addition, the mapping exercise also clearly identifies those areas in the Borough requiring additional provision in order to meet the accessibility standard.

The table below provides a summary of the total number and hectarage of open space provision within Gedling, by typology:

Analysis of Open Space by Typology

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Typology	
(classified by a site's primary function)	(ha)
Allotments	17.20
Amenity greenspaces (not including highway buffers)	118.10
Cemeteries	16.83
Children's play areas	0.44
Green corridors	0.17
Natural greenspaces	36.67
Outdoor sports facility	111.61
Parks and gardens	408.54
TOTAL	734.88

It is evident that certain types of open space could be used to help meet the deficiencies found in the pitch and non-pitch sport facilities and children's play areas studies. For example, the above table shows that there are 111.7 ha of amenity greenspace. This could in theory meet some of the shortfall for playing pitches and children's play areas. However, this study is just a first stage desk top exercise and it will require further work to assess in detail the suitability of these sites and to determine whether they could help to meet the shortfalls identified. Such work will need to assess other factors such as topography accessibility, and funding.

In addition the Council may wish to consider more detailed distance thresholds (that is, the maximum distance that typical users can be expected to travel to each type of provision using different modes of transport). A further analysis could then be conducted using maps to determine the percentage of the population that lives within a certain distance threshold of a significant local open space, subsequently mapping those areas requiring additional provision in order to meet the accessibility standard.

Finally, Gedling Borough Council needs to devise and draft robust policies which address the issues raised in this study, in liaison with the various

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Council departments, stakeholders and other interested bodies. It is particularly important to ensure that new development wherever possible does not exasperate the deficiencies, but contributes to providing the required recreational provision either through on-site provision or through contributions to off-site provision.

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PART 2: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Aim

The overall vision of the Strategy is as follows:

'To provide, by 2013 accessible, high quality open spaces and associated facilities in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors and are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.'

The role of GBC is important. It must be a principal facilitator, and supporter, of opportunities to work with voluntary, private and government agencies and groups. As the leading owner it needs to ensure that its own stock is effectively managed and positively contributes to provision across the Borough. It should encourage good practice, both through methods of management and the appropriate application of strategic policies with its partners.

Objectives

The objectives have been developed from the key issues emerging from the assessment report. GBC will work to provide, and assist in the provision of, good quality, accessible open spaces appropriate to meet the needs of the community within and beyond the Borough. The achievement of the strategic aims should be carried out through the implementation of the following policy objectives:

1. Increase the quality and capacity of existing open spaces to meet the needs and aspirations of users, agencies and GBC.
2. Maximise the accessibility of greenspaces and sport and recreation facilities on foot, by bicycle or by public transport.
3. Meet shortfall as identified in Part seven of the Assessment Report. The majority of this shortfall can be achieved through the implementation of improvements to, and increased maintenance of the current quantity of open space provision.

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4. Fill gaps in provision while also making the best overall use of the resources of land and money.
5. Create, where appropriate, green corridors between urban areas and their surrounding countryside and improve the accessibility of the urban fringe and rights of way in the countryside.
6. Provide usable, accessible and viable greenspaces within the Borough in the context of the UDP.
7. Encourage participation and support local voluntary sector contribution.
8. Improve the health and well being of the Borough's residents by providing improved opportunities to access high quality sporting activity.

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Local Agenda 21

In 1996 the Council launched its Local Agenda 21 process. The Local Agenda 21 Action Plan was originally published in December 2000. Below are listed a number of key aims and objectives of the strategy which will overlap with the work carried out through the open spaces action plans.

Theme	Aim and Objective
<p>1. Bio-diversity</p> <p>In a sustainable community the diversity of nature is valued and protected.</p>	<p>Protect the countryside</p> <p>Ensure good quality open space is available within walking distance.</p> <p>Protect important features in the landscape and increase woodland cover where appropriate.</p> <p>Provide appropriate management of the countryside and comply with the objectives of the Greenwood Community Forest.</p>
<p>2. Local Needs</p> <p>In a sustainable community local needs are met locally where possible.</p>	<p>To encourage the use of walking and cycling by promoting the provision of local convenience shops.</p> <p>To ensure that new development makes explicit provision to encourage transport choice including public transport, cycling and walking.</p>
<p>3. Access</p> <p>In a sustainable community access to facilities, services, goods and other people is not achieved at the expense of the environment or limited to those with cars.</p>	<p>To maximise the potential for dwellers in urban areas to gain access to the surrounding countryside without the need for a car.</p> <p>To promote highway safety with priority given to the safety of cyclists and pedestrians.</p>
<p>4. Leisure</p> <p>In a sustainable community opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.</p>	<p>To increase management efficiency, to maximise the use of resources and to reduce the basic costs of providing the leisure experience.</p> <p>To co-operate with other agencies that can assist in the achievement of the other aims.</p>

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Local Biodiversity Action Plan

The Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan ('Action for Wildlife') (LBAP) was published in 1998. Action for Wildlife is the framework for nature conservation in Nottinghamshire. It sets out priorities and targets, which will guide the work of organisations in the county. Gedling BC should become more actively involved in working towards developing sites to meet some of these targets.

Aims for biodiversity, as set out in the LBAP, which should involve the LA are as follows:

1. Ensure no further loss of designated wildlife sites.
2. Biodiversity should be a consideration in all land use decisions, not just those affecting designated sites.
3. Ensure that all officials involved in decisions that affect biodiversity are adequately trained, or have sufficient access to expertise to make well informed judgements.
4. Stimulate local action for biodiversity, and strengthen local pride in the environment by involving communities in setting conservation objectives and in managing protected sites wherever possible.

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PART 3: SUMMARY OF SHORTFALL AND ISSUES FROM THE ASSESSMENT

The study has identified, from consultation with users, site managers, agencies and association groups, that in some areas current provision of greenspace in the Borough is not meeting demand. National comparative local standards for greenspace are not available, so shortfall has been identified through face to face consultation with key stakeholders.

Most of the shortfall identified may be addressed by carrying out improvements to existing facilities or by increasing the biodiversity of a site in order to increase its usage. Below is a summary of shortfall and key issues taken from the assessment report.

General issues:

- ❑ Previously, no comprehensive assessment criteria has been applied to assess the recreational value of open space in the Borough, or the targeting of resources.
- ❑ No mechanism has been employed which allows for key sites within each categorisation definition to be locally prioritised.

Specific key issues and shortfalls within each typology:

Parks and gardens

- ❑ Identification of a shortfall of one additional park to service the urban fringe.
- ❑ Issue surrounding Gedling Colliery site with the future of the site currently in the balance. Issue surrounding funding of the site to bring it to a safe and usable state.

Natural and semi natural greenspace

- ❑ Gedling House Woods is designated LNR status but the meadlowland within the site is not.

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- Gedling is currently operating well below the English nature target for LNR sites per 1000 population. A number of sites have been highlighted as having the potential to meet some of this shortfall and are written into the action plans below.
- Importance of developing management plans for key sites and in order need to strength any bids for LNR status or similar.
- Demand for sites to have a richer biodiversity to satisfy a broader range of users and in order to work more closely to achieve the targets set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan, suggested sites are written into the action plans.

Green corridors

- Demand for networks to link up at least the major open spaces within the Borough.
- Rights of way shortfalls have been identified in Ravenshead, Linby, Newstead and Papplewick.
- Demand has been identified for the creation of additional cycleways and improved links to pedestrian crossings.

Amenity greenspace

- No identified demand for additional amenity greenspace in Gedling.

Allotments

- No identified demand for the creation of additional allotments. Allotments currently at 95% capacity.
- Need for creation of allotment associations at all allotment sites to improve management and maintenance.
- Consider the value of some of the smaller allotments sites over the next five years in terms of economics of scale.

Cemeteries

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- Over the next few years there will be increased demand for additional burial space in Gedling, in particular in the more rural areas where people living in the urban areas want to be buried in the countryside. Demand on parish council burial sites will increase. GBC has commissioned an audit of cemeteries within the Borough.

Civic Space

- Demand for additional space in Arnold for community use identified through the Town Centre Plan.

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Action plans

Each site has been given a specific priority in terms of carrying out the recommended actions, although it is recognised that circumstances may change and/or funding may become available in areas where the relevant sites are categorised as low priority and it may become more viable to change the priority of a site accordingly, but as a rule the following priorities have been set:

Term	Priority
Short Term	Within the next one - two years
Medium Term	Within the next 3 – 4 years
Long Term	Within the next 5 – 10 years

General recommendations:

- GBC should strengthen partnerships, focused around specific sites, to enable improved delivery of Local Agenda 21 action plans in order to manage and improve its own environmental performance. In part this can be achieved through carrying out site specific actions as detailed in the action plans.
- The Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan ('Action for Wildlife') was published in 1998. Action for Wildlife is the framework for nature conservation in Nottinghamshire. It sets out priorities and targets, which will guide the work of organisations in the county. Gedling BC should become more actively involved in working towards developing sites to meet some of these targets.
- GBC must work more closely with English Nature in order to improve its currently low local standard for designated LNR sites per 1000 population.
- Cycle routes are to be maintained to an appropriate standard to meet the needs of the users.

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- The role for amenity greenspace should be as amenity value only and not be for recreational value. Section 106 agreements for new housing should include amenity space but not for recreational use. This should complement play facilities for recreation.
- GBC has commissioned an audit of cemeteries to identify a long term solution for the increased demand for burial sites.

GBC should provide a number of additional rights of way to begin to meet the shortfalls identified in Ravenshead, Linby, Newstead and Papplewick. This process should be completed in partnership with users, including The Ramblers Association.

Site specific recommendations:

Site Name/ Settlement /Ref.	Action	Outcomes	Funding	Local Agenda 21 aims	Local Bio- diversity aims	Priority
Burntstump County Park Rural 319	To develop a management plan for the site in partnership with the users. Consider further how the site can achieve biodiversity. To conserve and preserve this site.	Effective management of the site for the benefit of the users. Achieving aims within the Biodiversity Action Plan.		1, 2, 4	1, 4	Short Term

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Site Name/ Settlement /Ref.	Action	Outcomes	Funding	Local Agenda 21 aims	Local Bio- diversity aims	Priority
Calverton Road Arnold 381	To develop a management plan for the site and encourage the creation of a management licence to a local user group. To conserve and preserve this site.	Importance to the local community. Enhance the surrounding area for conservation and biodiversity. Achieving aims within the Biodiversity Action Plan.		1, 2, 4	1, 4	Short Term
Dam Banks Rural 487	To develop a management plan for the site and encourage the creation of a management licence to a local user group. To conserve and preserve this site.	Importance to the local community. Enhance the surrounding area for conservation and biodiversity. Achieving aims within the Biodiversity Action Plan.		1, 2, 4	1, 4	Short Term
Eagle Square, Arnold Town Centre Arnold	Support the development of this civic space to make it more attractive to the community and to increase its capacity for community events/programmes.	Meet demand for community use identified through the Town Centre Plan.		2, 3, 4	2	Medium Term
Gedling Wood Meadow and Carlton	Develop a management plan for the site in partnership with Friends of Gedling House Woods.	Protection of the site as a whole. Meet demand for additional LNR status within the	English Nature	1, 4	1, 4	Short Term

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Site Name/ Settlement /Ref.	Action	Outcomes	Funding	Local Agenda 21 aims	Local Bio- diversity aims	Priority
413	To encourage and support the group to pursue the designation of this part of the larger Gedling House Woods site to LNR status.	Borough.				
Howbeck Road Allotments Arnold 342	<p>Demand for additional plots at this site – waiting list.</p> <p>Cultivation at this site is very low and the site is of generally poor quality.</p> <p>Develop an allotment association and encourage the group to attract funding to improve quality.</p> <p>Carry out technical appraisal of the site to improve soil quality and site drainage as appropriate.</p>	To improve value for money.	From sale of Rookery Gardens Allotment site.	1, 3, 4	2, 4	Medium Term
Killisick Field Allotments Arnold 343	<p>Cultivation at this site is very low and the site is of generally poor quality.</p> <p>Consider the value of keeping this site in relation to the cost of improving quality.</p>	Funds possibly recouped from sale of this site could be reinvested to improve other sites in the same area.		4	2	Long Term

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Site Name/ Settlement /Ref.	Action	Outcomes	Funding	Local Agenda 21 aims	Local Bio- diversity aims	Priority
Midland Wood Carlton 456	To work towards the targets set out within the Midland Wood Management Plan 2001 – 2005, including working towards LNR status. Further investment required at the site in order to bring it to a higher standard.	Good foundation for the site's long term future. Meet demand for additional LNR status within the Borough.	Wild Space! (NOF)	1, 2, 4	1, 4	Short Term
Moor Pond Rural 488	To develop a management plan for the site and encourage the creation of a management licence to a local user group. To conserve and preserve this site.	Importance to the local community. Enhance the surrounding area for conservation and biodiversity. Achieving aims within the Biodiversity Action Plan.		1, 4	1, 4	Short Term

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Site Name/ Settlement /Ref.	Action	Outcomes	Funding	Local Agenda 21 aims	Local Bio- diversity aims	Priority
Netherfield Lagoons Rural 418	<p>Develop a management plan for the site in partnership with the Netherfield Wildlife Group; this should include the aim of achieving LNR status within the next five years.</p> <p>Create a partnership of agencies/bodies such as English Nature and Wildlife Trust in order to strengthen the bid for LNR status.</p> <p>Support development of part of the site, if within the compensatory terms it allows the opening up of the rest of the site, to strengthen the LNR bid.</p> <p>Improved access to the site for users.</p>	<p>Creation of a large multi functional site servicing conservation and recreation.</p> <p>Achieving aims within the Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	Section 106 developer contributions	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4	Medium Term
Newstead Abbey Rural 459	<p>Encourage City Council managers of the site to remove charges to walkers and cyclists through the site.</p> <p>If unsuccessful</p>	Improved access to green corridors across the Borough.		2, 3	4	Short Term

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Site Name/ Settlement /Ref.	Action	Outcomes	Funding	Local Agenda 21 aims	Local Bio- diversity aims	Priority
	further develop alternative routes.					
Rookery Garden Allotments Arnold 328	One of the smallest allotment sites in Gedling and due to a lack of demand for allotments at this site it is suggested that this site is sold.	Funds recouped from sale of this site should be reinvested in improving Howbeck Road and Gedling Grove sites.		4	2	Medium Term

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New sites:

Site Name/ Settlement /Ref.	Action	Outcomes	Funding	Local Agenda 21 Aims	Local Bio- diversity Aims	Priority
Gedling Colliery	<p>Continue to support current working group.</p> <p>GBC should aim to restore this colliery to a country park.</p> <p>Create partnership of agencies/bodies such as Greenwood Forest Trust, English Nature and Wildlife Trust in an attempt to secure funding to make the site safe and usable.</p>	<p>Meet local demand of a park to service the urban fringe.</p> <p>Pleasant environment for local residents.</p>	East Midlands Development Agency (emda), Wild Space! (NOF)	1, 2, 3, 4	2	Long Term
No Mans Heath/Devils Heath, Bestwood	<p>Site has 15 years to run for sand extraction.</p> <p>Carry out feasibility study in partnership with Papplewick Parish Council which is keen to see development of this site as a natural and semi natural greenspace.</p>	<p>Importance to the local community. Enhance the surrounding area for conservation and biodiversity.</p> <p>Achieving aims within the Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>		1, 2, 3, 4	2	Long Term

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PART 4: FURTHER ASSESSMENT

Within the parameters of the project, KKP has been unable to carry out a full, site by site assessment of the open spaces within Gedling. It is recommended therefore that GBC explore the feasibility to provide a comprehensive Borough, all ownership, audit of open space. The following assessment framework is presented as a mechanism for assessing the recreation value of open space in the Borough. It is intended that it should be used as a preliminary analysis filter to be applied to sites irrespective of size and location. The framework is predicated on the assumption that the value of any particular site will be depended on its ability service local need and this will be effected by issues such as its:

- ❑ Typography.
- ❑ Capacity to accommodate other appropriate uses (including informal children's play opportunity).
- ❑ Location (including adjacency to housing and resident populations).
- ❑ Safety and accessibility (including in relationships to road).
- ❑ Established use, (custom and practice).
- ❑ Extent and type of amenity equipment, planting or design.
- ❑ Operational cost.
- ❑ Capacity/propensity to cause or encourage public nuisance/environmental impact.
- ❑ Potential to support or complement or service opportunity (linked to formally organised recreational opportunity such as playing pitch provision or specified community based programmes of activity).
- ❑ Civic, cultural and heritage contribution.

A criteria framework, a "toolkit" should be adopted which assesses the recreational value of sites based on the ability to service local need. This will allow sites to be identified as potentially suitable for protection, improvement or redesignation and assist with the targeting of resources.

As an initial assessment filter, the following criteria can be applied and, where appropriate, based on assessment score, further investigation instigated. Key assessment criteria are therefore as follows:

Level 1 assessment

All sites will be subject to this initial consideration. A presumption is made that sites that meet the criteria at this level will have significant local value

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and not be identified as a priority for any redesignation/change of primary use. Challenges to this presumption should be based on detailed appropriate local appraisal. These sites will include those that:

- Have recognised heritage, cultural or civic value by virtue of building, design, historic association or designation (e.g. cemeteries)
- Are recognised playing fields, within the definition of the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Parallel to this assessment, every site will be evaluated according to its ability to provide opportunities for informal children's play. Any **part** of a site that offers informal play opportunities, irrespective the outcome of its overall Level 1 assessment should be subject to Level 2 assessment (below). Notwithstanding any wider designation, provision of informal children's play opportunity is identified as important and will be subject to a requirement that this function is separately considered in the context of any potential loss.

Level 2 assessment

This assessment will be based on a straight point score process that is converted to a percentage value. It should be applied to sites which fail to meet Level 1 criteria and/or which provide opportunities for informal children's play.

Sites that score more than 75 percent, as sites that meet Level 1 criteria, will be subject to a presumption that they have significant local value and will not be identified as a priority for any redesignation/change of primary use. Challenges to this presumption should be based on detailed and appropriate local appraisal,

A presumption will be made that sites that score less than 75 percent will have low value and, as such, may be brought forward for consideration in reviews of designation, maintenance and future investment.

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Assessment scoring matrix

		1	2	3	4	5
Site attributes	Size / shape / slope					
	Grass					
	Planting					
	Trees					
	Water					
Adjacent resident population						
Amenities provided	Bins / benches / toilets					
Paths or informal routes						
Safe for children						
Value to wildlife						
Nuisance / noise / smells						
Maintenance cost						
	TOTAL Score out of 50					
	Score as %					

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Scoring guide

Attribute	Description	Scores
Size / shape / slope	Size, slope and shape are adequate for senior ball games and general casual play. e.g.: senior football pitch size.	5
	Size, slope and shape are adequate for larger ball games. Eg: mini-soccer play with two goalposts.	4
	Size, slope and shape are adequate for small ball games. eg: mini-soccer with single goalposts.	3
	Undulating landscape compatible for casual play and other leisure activities.	2
	Slope is not compatible for ball games or casual play but is generally satisfactory for other leisure activities such as strolling, rambling, etc.	1
Grass	Full grass cover and cleanly cut.	5
	Full grass cover with a few weeds. Cut regularly.	4
	Full grass cover over main area with some bald patches – between cuttings may be excessive in length.	3
	General grass cover average and patchy. Cut infrequently or poorly.	2
	General grass cover poor; wear has led to patchy and poor cover. Cut infrequently or poorly.	1
Planting/trees/ water	Well designed, attractive and sympathetic to local environment	3
	Some planting, the sites value would be enhanced through more.	2
	Limited or no planting where it could offer visual and usage benefits.	1
Amenities	(As 3 below) plus amenities - such as - children's play, playing pitches and non-pitch provision on or adjacent to the amenity.	4
	Will include benches, shelters, toilets. Car parking adequate for peak time use.	3

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Limited amenities inadequate to accommodate actual or potential peak time use.	2
Little or no amenities on or near the site.	1

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Attribute	Description	Scores
Paths or informal routes	Well designed and laid out paths linking parts of the space to main entrances and amenities which enhances the value of the site.	3
	Some pathways on site/some unofficial wear through desire lines.	2
	Limited or no path network	1
Cleanliness	No litter and other debris (fly tipping)	5
	Occasional reported problems	4
	Consistent problems at some parts of site	3
	Consistent/occasional problems across the site	2
Safe for children	Litter/rubbish/fly tipping in site	1
	Not adjacent to busy roads, clean, well designed to allow clear visual supervision, well maintained pathways, safety barriers at entrances etc	5
	Grades between 5 and 1 recognising that larger sites will have more 'potentially hazardous details that, in a broad hazard / sq. ha. Context, provide little or no increased risk.	4-2
	Near busy road, limited visual supervision, unprotected water, site suffers from litter, debris tipping etc.	1
Nuisance / noise / smells	Little or no complaints on the site or at entrances/roads leading to and from it.	4
	Grade between 4 and 1 based on extent, regularity and nature of disruption and the extent to which it restricts use or effects perceptions.	3-2
	Regular reported complaints about antisocial behaviour from police, local residents, community wardens etc. The site and its approaches are subject to vandalism. People report that they do not use the site because nuisance.	1

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Attribute	Description	Scores
Revenue and capital maintenance cost	<p>This category is included to allow the cost effectiveness of provision to be considered as a factor in value.</p> <p>It is intended to reflect the cost of addressing the above issues. Sites that have, for example, a low 'litter' score may be expensive to operate because of regular litter picking. Nuisance reduction may also be linked to increase youth work and/or gate locking and inspections at the site</p> <p>Sites with a low unit cost will score higher on a range of 5 to 1. This should be based on an equal split of the £ / sqm. operating cost from most expensive to least expensive.</p> <p>GBC should evaluate operating cost based on all services – including police, fire, housing, environmental services, grounds maintenance and (e.g. where detached youth workers are involved) youth services. County Council and parish council budgets should be included.</p>	5-1

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PART 5: CONCLUSION

The Site Specific Action Plans give some indication of the amount of work required by GBC and its partners to improve the existing level of provision within Gedling. Even within the short term, the cost and time of delivering some of the recommended actions will be significant.

In order to give GBC further rationale on the short and medium term priorities this section provides criteria for selecting sites that should be brought forward for immediate action. These criteria should also be used to identify priorities as and when opportunities for improvement and development arise in the future.

Criteria for identifying priorities

In order to identify priority sites for the Borough the following criteria should be considered:

- ❑ The ability of the site to contribute to the improved quality of the total provision across the Borough or area.
- ❑ The ability of the site to contribute towards addressing identified shortfall in number and/or quality.
- ❑ The ability of the site to contribute to the strategic objectives of GBC.
- ❑ Value for money that improvement of the site represents.
- ❑ The sustainability of the site once improvements/development have been made

These criteria can be considered in more detail under the following headings:

Strategic impact

- ❑ Does the project help meet the targets identified within the Strategy?
- ❑ Does the project help meet targets set through Agenda 21 and/or the Local Biodiversity Plan?

Financial implications

- ❑ Estimated capital costs of the project.
- ❑ Partnership funding which may be available.
- ❑ The level of 'value of money' which the project represents,

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Management and development of the site

- ❑ Will development of the site require additional/alternative management?
- ❑ What are the implications for revenue funding of the site?
- ❑ Is there an opportunity for shared management of the site?